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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
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February 7, 1947

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TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #3

Atlantic City Conference. The third and last of the regional farm labor conferences held in Atlantic City last week maintained the high standard set at the other two. We are proceeding with the duplication of the excellent papers presented in order that State Directors of Extension may have the opportunity to catch something of the spirit and thinking of the conferences.

Hearings on H. R. 1388 before the House Committee on Agriculture were held on February 4, 5 and 6. Mr. W. R. Ogg of the American Farm Bureau and Mr. George Wilson, California Farm Bureau and the California Farm Production Council, testified on Tuesday. W. R. Buie, Director, Labor Branch, PMA, and A. Lee Towson, President of the Kent County, Maryland, Farm Labor Association, were heard on Wednesday. Thursday, Josiah Ferris, Vice President of the U. S. Sugar Corporation, Clewiston, Florida, and Stanley Rector, Chief Counsel, Wisconsin State Employment Service, were the principal witnesses. The latter, who also spoke as a representative of the Association of State Employment Services, advocated the transfer of the farm labor program to State employment services on January 1, 1948, for two reasons: (a) estimated saving of 30-50 percent in cost of conducting the farm labor program, and (b) reduction in cost of unemployment compensation and veterans adjustment payments if a single agency was responsible for the placement of both industrial and agricultural labor. No hearing today but it is expected that hearings will be resumed next week.

The Committee on Extension Organization and Policy meets in Washington, D. C., on February 8, 9, and 10. I have been requested to discuss farm labor matters with the Committee at 2:00 pm tomorrow. Director F. A. Anderson of Colorado, Chairman of the Extension Directors' Committee on a permanent farm labor program authorized at the Land-Grant College Annual meeting last December, is expected to present the recommendations of his Committee at that time.

A Winter Work Manual of considerable interest and potential value, prepared by A. B. Love, State Supervisor, and the Michigan Extension Farm Labor staff, was presented at a special conference of Michigan Farm Labor assistants, at East Lansing, December 5, 6 and 7. It summarizes succinctly and concisely some results of the Emergency Farm Labor program in that state. Problems emphasized for the winter work program in this order are--Development of the farm labor cooperatives, housing and training of workers, and labor saving. Recommended is a series of local studies by group discussion method. Included are suggested topics and subject material, suggestions for group discussion leaders, and for panel discussions with fact sheets and work sheets to assist with analytical study of the problems. Illustratively, one fact sheet deals with the purposes, services, operation, needs, organization and management of cooperative labor associations. This manual should be of much assistance in further promoting a sound and enduring Farm Labor Program in Michigan.

The revised and redesigned 1947 issue of the wheat and small grain harvest guide goes to the printer this week and should be ready for delivery about April 15. The guide for the new west coast migratory program should be in the printers hands in a week or 10 days. Material for the north central states fruit and vegetable guide is being assembled and preparation of the copy will be started shortly after the February 11-12 meeting at Memphis. Barnard Joy, John Hervey and H. H. Williamson from this office and Robert G. Fowler of the West coast migratory labor office at Berkley, Calif., will attend the Memphis meeting.

The new 1947 "arrow cards" directing workers to farm labor offices, have been sent to the states. Information on 6 other pieces of material--including three recruiting posters has been sent to the state distribution officers, supervisors, directors and editors as a basis for orders.

Herbison of North Dakota pays the following tribute to the late director of the south central area in the Extension farm labor program:

"C. C. Randall, southerner, gentleman, and true friend of the Dakotas, is no longer with us as southern farm labor representative at Little Rock, Arkansas, for the Federal Extension Service. Mr. Randall died while in the line of duty. Formerly Extension Director in Arkansas, 'C. C.' knew the South as few men can. He knew its leaders and counted them as his intimate friends. He was aware of the problems of his section of the country and of the latest possibilities of those folks down there to improve their lot. In time of war he did yeoman duty in breaking down line fences and local pressures to hold labor where it was thru which the great labor resources of southern states might be better utilized in necessary wartime production of food and war materials. He was a great ambassador for the South in the Northern states and a medium thru which both sections of the country could readily get to know each other and work out operating procedures. How we will miss him! He always had a twinkle in his eye,-- a rib-tickling story to drop out that fit any occasion, and a great knack for injecting humanity and the golden rule into any proposition under consideration. He had looked forward to spending several years in quiet living following his retirement just in the offing, but now is a part of a greater retirement system than our manmade one. And once again we in the Dakotas say So Long,-- may God be good to you and yours to a great and good friend whose passing leaves us with many pleasant memories of an Extension worker who left this world a better place by reason of his sojourn among us for a little while."

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

(Copy to: State supervisors)

